

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.       A method for routing electronic messages, the method comprising:  
2           routing an electronic message directed to an intended recipient to a supervisory  
3 recipient; and  
4           enabling the electronic message to be screened by the supervisory recipient.

1           2.       The method of claim 1 wherein routing the electronic message includes  
2 notifying the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the  
3 supervisory recipient.

1           3.       The method of claim 1 wherein routing the electronic message does not  
2 include notifying the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the  
3 supervisory recipient.

1           4.       The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the electronic message to be  
2 screened further comprises:  
3           allowing the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic message, and  
4           forwarding the approved electronic message to the intended recipient.

1           5.       The method of claim 4 wherein enabling the electronic message to be  
2 screened further comprises:  
3           comparing an electronic address of a sender of the electronic message to at least one  
4 sender list, and  
5           approving or rejecting the electronic message based on a result of the comparison.

1           6.       The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of  
2 approved senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the  
3 electronic address of the sender to the list of approved senders.

1           7.       The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of  
2 blocked senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the  
3 electronic address of the sender to the list of blocked senders.

1           8.     The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing the supervisory  
2 recipient for the intended recipient.

1           9.     The method of claim 8 wherein the intended recipient is a minor child and the  
2 supervisory recipient is a guardian for the minor child such that establishing the supervisory  
3 recipient includes establishing the guardian as the supervisory recipient for the minor child.

1           10.    The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory  
2 recipient have related accounts within an electronic mail service such that routing the  
3 electronic message includes routing the electronic message to an account for the supervisory  
4 recipient that is related to an account for the intended recipient.

1           11.    The method of claim 10 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory  
2 recipient have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

1           12.    The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory  
2 recipient have unrelated accounts such that routing the electronic message includes routing  
3 the electronic message to the supervisory recipient account unrelated to the intended recipient  
4 account.

1           13.    The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic message comprises an email  
2 message such that routing the electronic message includes routing the email message.

1           14.    The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic message comprises an instant  
2 message such that routing the electronic message includes routing the instant message.

1           15.    The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic message comprises a chat room  
2 message such that the routing includes routing the chat room message.

1           16.    A system for routing electronic messages, the system comprising:  
2 a routing software module that sends to a supervisory recipient an electronic message  
3 that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

4 a screening software module that allows the electronic message to be screened by the  
5 supervisory recipient and allow the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic  
6 message; and

7 a forwarding software module that forwards the electronic message to the intended  
8 recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module notifies the  
2 intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

1 18. The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module does not notify  
2 the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory  
3 recipient.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the screening software module comprises:  
2 a first software module that compares an electronic address of a sender of the  
3 electronic message to at least one sender list, and  
4 a second software module that approves or rejects the electronic message based on a  
5 result of the comparison.

1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of  
2 approved senders.

1 21. The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of  
2 blocked senders.

1 22. The system of claim 16 further comprising a supervisor establishing software  
2 module that establishes the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

1 23. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for designating  
2 a minor child as the intended recipient and for designating a guardian for the minor child as  
3 the supervisory recipient.

1           24.    The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module that relates  
2 accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within an electronic mail  
3 service.

1           25.    The system of claim 24 further comprising a software module that enables the  
2 intended recipient and the supervisory recipient to have unique screen names comprising a  
3 single Internet service provider account.

1           26.    The system of claim 16 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory  
2 recipient have unrelated accounts.

1           27.    The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving an  
2 e-mail message as the electronic message.

1           28.    The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving an  
2 instant message as the electronic message.

1           29.    The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving a  
2 chat room message as the electronic message.

1           30.    A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program  
2 for processing by a computer, the computer program comprising:

3               a first code segment that causes the computer to route to a supervisory recipient an  
4 electronic message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

5               a second code segment that causes the computer to enable the electronic message to  
6 be screened by the supervisory recipient and allows the supervisory recipient to approve or  
7 reject the electronic message; and

8               a third code segment that causes the computer to forward the electronic message to  
9 the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

1           31.    The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment causes the  
2 computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the  
3 supervisory recipient.

1           32.    The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment does not  
2 cause the computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic message has been  
3 routed to the supervisory recipient.

1           33.    The computer program of claim 30 wherein the second code segment causes  
2 the computer to:

3                compare an electronic address of a sender of the electronic message to at least one  
4 sender list, and

5                approve or reject the electronic message based on a result of the comparison.

1           34.    The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list  
2 includes a list of approved senders.

1           35.    The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list  
2 includes a list of blocked senders.

1           36.    The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a fourth code segment  
2 that causes the computer to establish the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

1           37.    The computer program of claim 36 further comprising a code segment that  
2 causes the computer to designate a minor child as the intended recipient a guardian for the  
3 minor child as the supervisory recipient.

1           38.    The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment that  
2 causes the computer to relate accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient  
3 within an electronic mail service.

1           39.     The computer program of claim 38 further comprising a code segment that  
2 causes the computer to recognize unique screen names comprising a single Internet service  
3 provider account as the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient.

1           40.     The computer program of claim 30 wherein the intended recipient and the  
2 supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.

1           41.     The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for  
2 causing the computer to receive an e-mail message as the electronic message.

1           42.     The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for  
2 causing the computer to receive an instant message as the electronic message.

1           43.     The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for  
2 causing the computer to receive a chat room message as the electronic message.